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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Field Service Branch
Washington 25, D.C.
January 8, 1947

SSM - 276

Special Services Memorandum - 276

Administrative - 20

Subject: Active Special Services Memoranda

With the termination of WFO-135 on February 8, 1947, all of the Special Services Memoranda in the Farm Machinery Rationing series will become inactive and only the following memoranda should be retained in the active files:

SSM-131- Supplies 52 - Sugar Allowance for Feeding Bees. -
This memorandum will probably remain active as long as sugar rationing prevails.

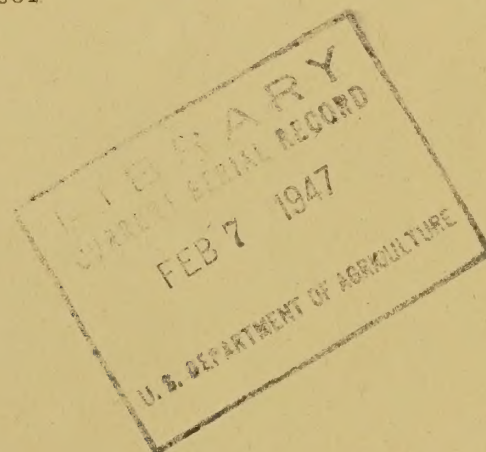
SSM-257- Supplies 60 - Ice. - Some of the same problems in connection with the production and movement of ice may recur in the future.

SSM-267- Supplies 63 - Correspondence with Respect to Ice.*

SSM-271- Supplies 64 - Surplus Property - WAA Reg. 3. - General policy with respect to surplus property will remain in effect indefinitely.

SSM-272- Supplies 65 - Direction Concerning Deliveries of Coal.-
Should be retained for the list of SFAW offices.

Wm Davidson
Director



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Field Service Branch
Washington 25, D.C.
February 12, 1947

SSM -277

Special Services Memorandum - 277

Supplies - 66

Subject: Bale Ties for 1947

If we are to obtain an adequate supply of bale ties for use this year it is essential that the manufacturers produce at a maximum rate throughout the year. To assure this production farmers should place orders now with their dealers and accept delivery of bale ties as they become available. This action will enable dealers to order maximum quantities from fabricators without building up abnormal inventories.

Bale tie production from 1936 to 1940 averaged 52,227 tons annually with the greater part of the production during the second and third quarters. During the five war years (1941-1945) production was increased to an average of 105,886 tons annually.

The 1945 hay crop was the largest in history and even though 108,225 tons of bale ties were produced that year, farmers' needs were not met at harvest time and enormous tonnages of hay was stacked in the fields and stored in mows. Farmers continued to bale hay and straw from mows and stacks throughout the winter months of 1945 and well into the spring of 1946, and as a result, the normal carryover of ties was depleted.

The Department was aware of this situation and steps were taken early in 1946 to have mills run at capacity through the first and second quarters. However, instead of increasing production, work stoppages in the steel and coal industries caused the mills to reduce first quarter production to 19,014 tons whereas it should have been 30 to 35 thousand tons. The absence of a normal carryover from 1945 and the low rate of production in the first quarter of 1946 caused a severe shortage of ties in every section of the country. Production was increased to 31,500 tons in the second quarter; 36,043 in the third quarter; and 37,200 tons in the 4th quarter, or a yearly production of 123,757 tons. (This figure does not include several thousand tons of coiled wire used for baling hay and straw). Judging from complaints received from both dealers and farmers, 1946 requirements were not met until late in November. It has been estimated that 1947 requirements will be 156,200 tons.

The production and distribution of ties this year will be entirely dependent upon trade practices with no government direction or allocation. Thus, it is particularly important that farmers clearly indicate their demand by placing their orders and accepting deliveries as early as possible. This matter should be brought to the attention of county and community committees at once in order that farmer who will need bale ties will order and accept supplies promptly.

Francis Davidson
Director

